CEDAR POINT: WHO WILL TELL THE TRUTH?; EVANS?

W.H. Evans' "History of Cedar Point" (Summer 1967)

(as published in 'Inland Seas')

was a re-issue of Evan's narrative (and excerpts) which appeared in many prior publications, including:

Dover (OH) DAILY REPORTER, 13 Jne 1964;
Cleveland (OH) CLEVELAND PRESS, 9 Oct 1964;
Port Clinton (OH) NEWS HERALD, 15 Jne 1965;
"PLASTICHROME TRAVEL SERIES" "Vol. 318" (1965);
Cleveland (OH) PLAIN DEALER, 22 May 1966;
and, probably, "Lawyers Title News", 1966 (?Apr.?).
etc.

CEDAR POINT: WHO WILL TELL THE TRUTH?; EVANS??

[[A PARTIAL CRITIQUE OF....]]

A History of Cedar Point – Summer 1967

By W.H. Evans [with annotated comments/corrections by "C.P.P.-I.C.", 2025]

"About the Author: Mr. W. H. Evans is a member of the Great Lakes Historical Society, and for the past seventeen years has been Public Relations Director[*] of Cedar Point."
[[*> see the comments at the conclusion of this critique]]

Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio, today covers 450 acres of which about 250 acres are occupied by various facilities including Hotel Breakers.
The resort is [[..."incidentally"*...]] **a part of the huge land grant** [[blah blah blah*]] **made to the Colony of Connecticut in 1662 by King Charles II of England**.
[[*> In **1662**, nobody(!) in England (nor, perhaps any other "white" person anywhere), even knew that "Cedar Point" (the peninsula, although now actually an 'island') existed. But Evans' decision to begin his narrative with inconsequential hyperbole, foreshadows his disastrous "facts" ahead.]]

Cedar Point, one of the oldest resorts in the United States, traces its origin as a vacation[?] **spot back to 1882, but its**[?] **recorded history began some 60 years earlier – and it is part of a region** [[blah blah blah...]] **known to explorers, priests, hunters and trappers for a century-and-a-half before its actual settlement.**
La Salle, for example, passed through the [[general]] **area in 1679 en route to Lake Superior on a fur trading mission. In 1760 Major Robert Rogers and his Rangers, in search of the Northwest Passage,** [[supposedly]] **camped overnight at what is now the foot of Columbus Avenue in Sandusky, on**[?] **the site from which today's pleasure seekers embark on ferries**[?*] **bound for Cedar Point.** [[*ended before 1958?]]
It[?] **was important**[?] **Indian Country, held by the fierce Eries until their extermination by the Iroquois.**
The history of the Sandusky region is a [[blah blah blah....]] **colorful tapestry, woven of the threads of Indian, French** [[and British]], **and American pioneer adventure.**
The War of 1812 [[blah blah blah...]] **interlaced a few British strands into the picture, for it was at Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island – within view of the mouth of Sandusky Harbor – that Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry headquartered his fleet for attack on Britain's Commodore Barclay in the decisive Battle of Lake Erie. This American naval victory turned the tide of war and was the first in a chain of events leading to a satisfactory peace settlement.**
Actually, it was another front of the War of 1812[[false*]] **that caused the founding of Sandusky. Certain residents of Connecticut, whose homes were burned by British invaders, received land grants – which came to be called the "Firelands" – in the Sandusky area, and formed a settlement in 1816.**
[[*> The "Fire Land(s)" grant was a result of the **Revolutionary War**. And, none of the original "Fire Sufferers" ever resided in Sandusky City, nor anywhere in the "Fire Land(s)". (Real-estate investors had purchased all of the individual 'shares' of the original "Fire Land(s)" grant, and then sold parceled 'lots' to the pioneers.)
But, oddly, in all that hyperbolic rambling about absolutely nothing that connects directly to "Cedar Point peninsula", Evans completely omits its direct connection to the War-of-1812 Skirmish on the Marblehead peninsula.]]
Eight years later, the little community was incorporated. Cedar Point today is within the Sandusky [[subsequent]] **corporate limits.** [[Although "Sandusky City" was originally its precise name, but it wasn't officially 'incorporated' as a CITY until 1845. But research is ongoing to determine when the n.w. portion of Cedar Point ("peninsula") was annexed by the city, and thereby removed from "Huron Township".]]
Long a famous landmark, the Cedar Point peninsula remained a fishing and hunting ground for the white man, as it had been for the Indians, for many years.
In the words of one 19th century local historian, Aldrich, in his History of Erie County:

> ***"Cedar Point*** [[meaning, the entire "peninsula", of course]] ***then (1820s) was a bit of wild land seven miles long, sheltering, in its long arms, Sandusky Bay. It was covered with timber, and a sandy beach edged the shore. There was, at that time, no large amount of navigation on the lake, and no lighthouse reared its head on the Point."***

A more vivid [[...and, fancifully illusory...]] **description of the peninsula of that era appeared in a quaint advertisement in the Sandusky Clarion, January 30, 1830:**

> ***For Sale: — All that valuable tract of land commonly called and known by the name of Cedar Point — this point of land in all 1200 acres, (one of the peninsulas that form Sandusky Bay), embraces many advantages to the speculator or farmer, it being principally covered with cedar, pine, oak, elm, white wood, basswood, and other timber, not necessary to mention; together with two prairies, where can be cut with ease one hundred tons of hay, The pine grove is young and thrifty. And a good part of the cedar is fit for staves and shingles — the land fit for cultivation after having been cleared is about 80 acres. The fishing ground is probably the best within the boundary of the spacious harbor of Sandusky Bay. Call and see. — F. Devoe.*** **[*]**

Mr. Devoe, a leading[??] **citizen in the upcoming village of some three hundred souls, sold the property in about a month** [false*]**, and any subsequent Cedar Point activity is obscure**[??*] **until 1839 when Colonel A. M. Porter purchased for $292.80, at sheriff's sale, 440 acres appraised at $439.22. That would be approximately 66 cents per acre!** [[*> EVANS **OMITTED CRUCIAL DETAILS** ABOUT THAT ADVERTISED "SALE" BY DEVOE!!, and etc.; **see the 'conclusion' section, below]]**

Steamboat[*] **Hotel**

Although Porter did nothing[?] **to develop** it [[....actually, Porter was directly involved in a proposed-but-failed plan to develop the westerly end of C.P. into a thriving city, in 1837...]], **simply** [?>]**allowing people to fish there in return for one-eighth of their catch**[<?]**, his name lends color to Cedar Point's history. As proprietor of the Steamboat**[*] **Hotel in Sandusky, he was host to Charles Dickens during the latter's first tour of America in 1842. Dickens wrote to his friend, Forster, in England, "We are in a small house here, but a very comfortable one, and the people are exceedingly obliging."**
Local legend[!!] **has it that the author was highly pleased with the food at what he called the "Porter House" and that this was the origin of the porterhouse steak.**
[[Yes, "legend" (myth), indeed. (*> Notwithstanding that Porter's hotel, during Porter's ownership, was named "**Veranda Hotel**", not "Steamboat Hotel".)]]

[[Also note, that the '1967' published version of Evans' narrative, redacted a (mysterious) sentence that appeared in other, earlier published versions of this same "history" by Evans: **"** *And four years later, a resort started on Cedar Point***."***...*presumably meaning 4 years after 1842? (Evan's makes no mention about the details of the "four years later" enterprise which he referenced; but no known actual "resort" type business, operated here until 1858.) Although it is also possible that a full paragraph had been redacted in those previous, earlier versions --- but Evans simply and carelessly forgot to redact the *"four years later"* notation about it, until this '1967' version. (See a '1966' version of his "History", below.)]]

The wisdom of the Supreme Court and [[Mr. Biemiller's]] **fishing rights notwithstanding, Sanduskians were rowing and sailing across the bay in growing numbers to picnic at Cedar Point** [[peninsula]] **and enjoy the beach. No doubt sensing the potential value of this kind of activity, one B. F. Dwelle leased the Point**[*] **from its owners in 1882, and set about making improvements to attract pleasure seekers**.
[[*> misleading. Dwelle's initial enterprise of '1882' was established on a very small, narrow area along "Biemiller's Cove", (adjacent to land then-owned by Andrew Biemiller which is not within the boundaries of the current "amusement park" area).
Dwelle moved his enterprise into the present-day resort area, the following year (1883). However, the reason that *"Sanduskians were rowing and sailing across the bay in growing numbers"* by 1882, is because, by 1882, there were already several other independent bath-house enterprises operating on this many-miles-long "peninsula".
(Dwelle's '1882' enterprise merely offered additional ammenities.)]]

[[Note, that here, Evans suddenly and oddly inserts '1870' incidents about Zistel, (despite Evans' prior paragraph which had detailed '1882' incidents).....]]
Perhaps[?!] **the first commercial enterprise at Cedar Point was started by Louis Zistel, a German immigrant who settled in Sandusky as a cabinet maker. During the Civil War, Louis Zistel built two boats and obtained a contract from the government to transport Confederate officer prisoners to the Union Prison on Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay. After the war, he needed business for his two boats, and used them starting in 1870 to haul persons to Cedar Point where they could dance and have picnics.**
[[Several questionable, (and obviously inaccurate), statements, there; especially because: 1.) The fishing companies that had operated for many years, here, were *"commercial enterprises"*. And, 2.) The first-known recreational business anywhere on this peninsula, occurred in 1858. And, 3.) The main "prisoner boat" to Johnsons Is., was 'Little Eastern', (Capt. **Bristol**), and it was not built by Zistel. (An auxiliary "prisoner boat" was 'Bonnie Boat', Capt. Slackford). And, 4.) The steamboat which Zistel utilized in 1870, 'Young Reindeer', was newly built **in** 1870 (according to multiple 19th-Century sources).]]
And, notice that Evans does not state that it was Zistel, himself, who actually operated any specific enterprise anywhere UPON Cedar Point peninsula. (In 1870, Zistel was merely operating a charter-boat service, to several recreational and fishing areas on Sandusky Bay, and which incidentally included several areas of this many-miles-long peninsula.) [Perhaps, were there 'maritime' legalities to a single ownership of both**:** a "resort" and its "steamboat service"??]
(And, because Capt. G.H. BRISTOL had the gov. contract to transport Confederate prisoners to Johnsons Island, so it's possible that Zistel had no involvement whatsoever, with that.)

However, the most perplexing aspect of that "Zistel" paragraph :
No part of that specific (and supposedly integral?**) "inserted" paragraph about Zistel, appears in some of the earlier published versions of this same "history" by Evans.**
(See a '1966' version, below.**)**

First he [[**Dwelle**!!*]] **built a dock, and promptly a steamboat went into operation between Sandusky and the Point.** ***"Then,"*** **says historian Aldrich,** ***"after partially clearing a part of the land, a walk was built across the bay to the lake; a house was erected on the side near the bay, and later bathing houses were put up on the lake shore, and Sanduskians began to enjoy their resort by forming parties and excursions to Cedar Point."*** **According to present owners, Dwelle's facilities included a covered dance platform, picnic tables and benches, refreshment stands and simple amusements such as swings, see-saws and sliding boards.**
Historian Peele [[Peeke]] **says that by 1884 there were 16 bathing houses** [[actually, being multiple independent enterprises, including T.J. Moore's older "Eagle Bath Houses", and possibly the (even-older) "Molyneux Bath House"]] **on the** [[7 mile long]] **lake shore; and, that on the bay side was a dining hall** [[Dwelle's, 1883]]**, with dance room above. Dwelle had a five-year lease, expended $5,000 on improvements, paid no rental the first season, a moderate amount the second, and each succeeding year paid an increase equivalent to the second year's rent.**
[[*> Evans' paragraph about Zistel, (as haphazardly inserted into his '1967' version), caused later "historians" to instead wrongly attribute Dwelle's activities to Zistel.
Perusal of the original 'Aldrich' reference, easily verifies that Dwelle is the one who initiated those specific improvements, not Zistel. In fact, there seems to be no contemporaneous evidence that Zistel should be credited, in regard to "Cedar Point", for anything more than merely offering/providing boat transportation to various areas of this peninsula (in addition to other local destinations) in 1870.
Regardless, none of the "recreational" business activities upon the many-miles-long peninsula in 1870 (through 1881), were direct precursors to the present-day resort enterprise. And, contemporaneous news items, etc., indicate that there were no pre-1882 recreational businesses located upon this wider end of the peninsula, but only upon the narrower areas which were, in essence, public property, at that time.
One of the few accurate statements that Evans made in his above error-ridden "history", is that the year '1882' was the correct first year of Dwelle's enterprise --- and which was the true direct precursor to the present-day resort. Therefore, its actual "150th season" was NOT in 2020, but will instead legitimately be in '2032'.

Prior to about 1960, there was no mention, anywhere, about Zistel being connected, in any way, to the present-day resort. But almost immediately after the "G.A. Boeckling Company" became "Cedar Point, Inc.", an entire new story(!) of the resort's beginnings, began to be promoted. Evans' usage of the word "PERHAPS", in regard to Zistel's role, indicates that Evans, himself, might have disagreed with the new company's promotional campaign(s); but because Evans was still employed as CP's Public Relations Director, he had no other choice than to newly promote it exactly as he was newly instructed, despite that he had continually promoted its "beginnings" completely differently, prior to 1960.

Presumably, all of Evans' published writings about Cedar Point resort, were intended to generate business for "Cedar Point". Meaning that even the above '1967' publication, was potentially a paid-for advertisement, masquerading as "history", (in the same manner that paid-for advertisements now pervasively masquerade as "news"). This final paragraph from Evans' 1967 publication would seem to substantiate that possibility**:**
""A tremendous promotional and advertising campaign is bringing people to the Point, not only from Ohio and adjoining states, but from all parts of the country. During 1966, visitors numbered 2,340,500 in a 101-day season, and one out of every five cars entering the resort came from outside Ohio. Beginning its 98th season on May 27th this year, Cedar Point is now considered our Nation's No. 2 Amusement Park.""
[The *"98th season"* assertion was totally incongruous to all pre-1960 assertions by Evans, (etc.).]

And --- about that "sale" of Cedar Point peninsula by "F. Devoe" in "1830",
(*"in about a month"*)**; no sale occurred until 1831, but :**
Devoe was never a legal owner of this land, anyway.
This *"brief history for the Firelands Historical Society, by R .K. Ramsey*" in 1922, tells the **true** ownership sequence**:**

> **" Cedar Point, (which** [originally] **became a part of Sections 3 and 4, Huron Twp.), was acquired"..."prior to 1824, by William Winthrop". "William Winthrop's will, (probated 1827), granted the property to his son**[[actually nephew]]**, William Henry Winthrop, who, in turn, conveyed to Moors Farwell."**
> [[And, then Farwell sold it to Porter, in 1836, for $4,000.]]

Notice that there is no mention, there, about the "Devoe sale"; because, in fact, William Winthrop's nephew/heir, **W.H. Winthrop, sued Devoe (** and also a man named Grimes**) due to that illegal "sale" by Devoe; and that "sale" was nullified.**
(The Winthrop family never resided in Ohio, so Devoe appropriated Cedar Point peninsula for himself; but ultimately he was proven to have done it illegally.)
That is a crucial fact that (apparently) **zero prior "Cedar Point historians" have ever mentioned before.** Nor, apparently, have any other "Cedar Point historians" reported the several prior official names of 'Cedar Point' resort.
See the series of free "C.P.P.-I.C." publications at archive.org
(including 1860s newsp. items about Capt. Bristol's Civil-War steamboats.)

Here is a '1966' version of Evan's "history":
(Note the lack of any mention of "Zistel", nor "1870".
Also see the '1953' inset at the final page**!**)

History of Cedar Point

By W. H. (Bill) Evans

Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio, today covers 425 acres of which about 225 acres are occupied by various facilities including Hotel Breakers. The resort is a part of the huge land grant made to the Colony of Connecticut in 1662 by King Charles II of England.

Cedar Point, one of the oldest resorts in the United States, traces its origin as a vacation spot back to 1882, but its recorded history began some 60 years earlier—and it is part of a region known to explorers, priests, hunters and trappers for a century and a half before its actual settlement.

LaSalle, for example, passed through the area in 1679 en route to Lake Superior on a fur trading mission, in 1760 Major Robert Rogers and his Rangers, in search of the Northwest Passage, camped overnight at what is now the foot of Columbus Avenue in Sandusky, on the site from which todays' pleasure seekers embark on ferries bound for Cedar Point. It was important Indian Country, held by the fierce Eries until exterminated by the Iroquois.

IN HIS BOOK, "Sandusky, Then and Now," by Von Schulenburg-Lange, James Smith, a white captive of Wyandot Indians, tells in his memoirs about a hunt for deer on Cedar Point in 1757. Let us have him tell it:

"The ACTUAL into Lake Erie at Cedar Point is a good NARRATIVE hunting party (53 in number) distributed itself on the peninsula and inwards on the bay side. At a signal we marched SMITH the water and although we could not see SPECIFICALLY made such a commotion by shouting and calling that we kept fairly well THAT. In a short time we came in sight of one another. SMITH the advance guard reached the end of the tongue of land (Cedar Point), the REFERENCING children had posted themselves on the bay in canoes to prevent the deer from reaching the lake. OUTERY began and the squaws of the water wielded tomahawks.

WE KILL POINT ut 30 deer in all, although a much larger number escaped by reaching open wa AT. By the time the region was settled it was the home of W BAY t Indians."

The history of the Sandusky region is a colorful tapestry, woven of the threads of Indian, French and American pioneer adventure. The war of 1812 interlaced a few British strands into the picture, for it was at Put-In-Bay on South Bass Island—within view of the mouth of Sandusky Harbor—that Commodore Perry headquartered his fleet for attack on Britain's Commodore Barclay in the decisive Battle of Lake Erie. This American naval victory turned the tide of war and was the first in a chain of events leading to a satisfactory peace settlement.

ACTUALLY it was another front of the War of 1812 that caused the founding of Sandusky. Certain residents of Connecticut whose homes were burned by British invaders received land grants —which came to be called the "firelands"—in the Sandusky MUDDLED FACTS ed a settlement in 1816. Eight years later the little community was incorporated.

Cedar Point today is within the Sandusky corporate limits.

Long a famous landmark, the Cedar Point peninsula remained a fishing and hunting ground for the white man, as it had been for the Indians, for many years. In the words of one 19th century local historian, Aldrich, in his History of Erie County, Ohio, "Cedar Point then (1820s) was a bit of wild land seven miles long sheltering, in its long arms, Sandusky Bay. It was covered with timber, and a sandy beach edged the shore. There was at that time no large amount of navigation on the lake, and no light-house reared its head on the Point." A more vivid description of the peninsula of that era appeared in a quaint advertisement in the Sandusky Clarion, January 30, 1830:

FOR SALE: All that valuable tract of land commonly called and known by the name of Cedar Point—this point of land containing 400 acres, (one of the peninsulas that form Sandusky Bay), embraces many advantages to the Speculator or farmer, it being principally covered with cedar, pine, oak, elm, white wood, basswood, and other timber, not necessary to mention; together with two prairies, where can be cut with ease one hundred tons of hay. The pine grove is very thrifty. And a good part of the cedar is fit for stoves and fences—the land fit for cultivation after having been cleared is about 80 acres. The fishing ground is probably the best within the boundary of the spacious harbor for Sandusky Bay—call and see — F. Devoe.

Devoe, a leading citizen in the up-coming village of some 300 souls, sold the property in about a month, and any subsequent Cedar Point activity is obscure until 1839 when Colonel A. M. Porter purchased for $292.-80 at sheriff's sale 440 acres appraised at $439.22. That would be approximately 66c per acre.

Although Porter did nothing to develop it, simply allowing people to fish there in return for one-eighth of their catch, his name lends color to Cedar Point's history. As proprietor of the Sveranda Hotel in Sandusky, he was host to Charles Dickens during the latter's first tour of America in 1842. Dickens wrote to his friend, Forster, in England, "We are in a small house here, but a very comfortable one, and the people are exceedingly obliging." Local legend has it that the author was highly pleased

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CONGRATULATIONS
CEDAR POINT
★ ★ ★ ★
MORGAN LINEN SERVICE
2200 MILAN RD. 625-3252
SANDUSKY, OHIO

UM-M-M-M
CANDY
APPLES
UM-M-M-M
COTTON
CANDY
The Real, Fresh Old-Fashioned Kind
Cedar Point
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Holzapfel

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with the food at what he called the "Porter House" and that this was the origin of the porterhouse steak.

And four years later a resort started on Cedar Point.

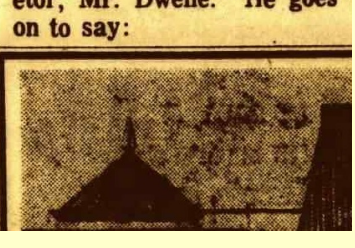
The wisdom of the Supreme Court and fishing rights not withstanding, Sanduskians were rowing and sailing across the bay in growing numbers to picnic at Cedar Point and enjoy the beach. No doubt sensing the potential value of this kind of activity, one B. F. Dwelle leased the point from its owners in 1882 and set about making improvements to attract pleasure seekers.

FIRST HE built a dock, and promptly a steamboat went into operation between Sandusky and the point. Then, says historian Aldrich, "After partially clearing a part of the land, a walk was built across from the bay to the lake; a house was erected on the side near the bay and later bathing houses were put up on the lake shore, and Sanduskians began to enjoy their resort by forming parties and excursions to Cedar Point." According to present owners, Dwelle's facilities included a covered dance platform, picnic table and benches, refreshment stands and simple amusements such as swings, see-saws and sliding boards. Historian Peele says that by 1884 there were 16 bathing houses on the lake shore and that on the bayside was a dining hall with dance room above.

Dwelle had a five-year lease, expended $5,000 on improvements, paid no rental the first season, a moderate amount the second, and each succeeding year paid an increase equivalent to the second year's rent.

"All this time," says Aldrich, "the resort grew in favor. The steamboat, Hayes, made frequent trips, and the bay was a flutter with white - winged sailing vessels through the summer months. So popular did Cedar Point become that boats could scarcely be supplied to meet the demand, and newer and better sailing craft were added to the stock on hand."

Dwelle's original lease presumably expired in 1887, and what was then negotiated, or why, is not clear. Aldrich, in 1889, says only, "Under a new agreement the Point is now leased to a company of five gentlemen, including its former proprietor, Mr. Dwelle." He goes on to say:



"These men are alive to the possibilities of the place and enter heartily into its development until the Cedar Point of the future will rival any of the resorts of our seaboards in attractive features."

"A BUILDING is to be erected on the farther shore to combine all the features of amusement and entertainment to be found at the fashionable watering places. The old walk across the Point will then be taken up and relaid by a plank walk 12 feet wide; grounds will be cleared and beautified and the delightful stroll to the lighthouse made more agreeable. This company expects to make an outlay of $20,000 the coming season. The new building will be one hundred and 50 feet long by 80 wide."

"Those who have travelled and visited the summer watering places come to Sandusky and find here the perfection of a resort . . . First among (its attractions) we have placed Cedar Point because the aged or infirm, or those with moderate purses can all enjoy the bathing, sailing, fishing and sociability of this nearby delight."

1887

In 1887 the Cedar Point Pleasure Resort Co. was incorporated in Indiana, with five original holders and a

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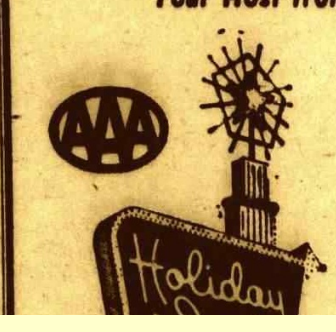
Holiday Inn OF AMERICA
Your Host from Coast to Coast


• 125 MODERN ROOMS
• SUITES AVAILABLE
• AIR CONDITIONED
• FREE TELEVISION
• TILE BATHS & SHOWERS
• SWIMMING POOL
• DIRECT DIAL TELEPHONES
• CARPETED

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capital stock of $250,000. Dwelle was one of the five; among the others were two — A. J. Stoll and Louis Adolph—who appear to have been owners of the peninsula.

WHILE FOR natural reasons it was perhaps inevitable that Cedar Point should become a resort of some prominence, its rapid development into a flourishing, fashionable, large-scale showplace was due to the creative and promotional genius of G. A. Boeckling.

In 1897 Boeckling was sent from Indianapolis by the Michigan Central Railroad for which he worked, to search Sandusky for a suitable spot for pleasure train excursions. Discovering Cedar Point, he promptly secured an option for himself, reported to his superiors, "I have found just the spot and you can come to it. It's mine,"—and resigned his position with the railroad. The rest of his life he energetically devoted to Cedar Point. Until his death in 1931, Boeckling was the driving force behind the entire operation.

DISPLAYING an extraordinary talent for showmanship, Boeckling did everything in the grand manner. Over the scoffs of financiers, he built a 1,000-room hotel, the Breakers, and kept it filled with guests. When his fellow directors refused to endorse the installation of a midway, Boeckling went ahead on his own and, it is reported, made so much money that the directors begged to be 'let in.'

He built a theater and booked the nation's top musical, dramatic and vaudeville talent. Playing to big crowds every night in the enormous ballroom, another mammoth-scale Boeckling installation, was a succession of the country's most popular dance bands. In the ground-floor arena under the ballroom, waiters glided about on roller skates serving drinks to the customers. It is typical of Boeckling that when he grew impatient with soft drink bottlers he built his own beverage plant.

BOECKLING promoted more and more excursion business through the railroads, and at times as many as 14 trains would pull into the Sandusky dock, delivering passengers from all over Ohio and neighboring states. Boeckling put a 3,000-passenger ferry boat into operation. Landing at the ferry dock on Cedar Point, passengers were taken to the Breakers on a small, narrow-gauge train, which also served to deliver fuel and supplies to the hotel.

On the tip of the peninsula Boeckling built large docks for luxury steamers arriving from ports all over the Great Lakes. As many as three liners at a time would be tied up there. Between the Breakers and the docks lay a network of lagoons, and steamer passengers for a time were taken to the hotel by barges; later, Boeckling built a concrete road to the tip of the peninsula and brought passengers from the docks in "Toonerville Trolleys." These quaint vehicles may still be seen at Cedar Point.

Boeckling also went after convention business in a big way and succeeded in making Cedar point highly popular for such meetings. When he booked Judge Rutherford and his International Bible Society it brought more than 50,000 students from all over the world.

Master promoter Boeckling took advantage of every possible timely event. When he learned in 1910 that Glenn Curtiss was going to try for the longest over-water flight in a pusher-type plane from Cleveland, Boeckling gave Curtiss $2,-500 to fly over Lake Erie to Cedar Point. The pioneer aviator did make a record and more than 20,000 people were on hand when he landed on the beach. Even more spectators came to cheer when Curtiss repeated the stunt, this time sponsored by The Cleveland Press, though he didn't succeed in breaking his earlier record.

AMONG THE MANY prominent figures belonging to Cedar Point lore is Knute Rockne, who, with other Notre Dame students, worked during summer vacations. He was a life guard, and during off hours he and Gus Dorais practiced endlessly with a football on the Cedar Point beach, perfecting the forward pass play that revolutionized American football and shot Notre Dame into national prominence in 1913. Years later, in 1949, the Notre Dame Club of Cleveland, in a ceremony attended by Rockne's Four Horsemen, erected a bronze memorial plaque on the beach.

So it was with Cedar Point until Boeckling's death in 1931.

IN 1950 Cedar Point was leased for 10 years to Terrence Melrose, Cleveland Hotel chain and real estate operator, and the following year he conveyed his interests to his own general manager, D. M. Schneider. The latter operated the resort until 1959, when new ownership negotiated termination of the lease. Under Schneider, Cedar Point was promoted as a wholesome, family attraction, and reportedly it began to show a good profit again.

In 1956 trustees of the Boeckling estate optioned the controlling interest to a syndicate headed by George A. Roose of Toledo and Emile A. Legros of Cleveland, who announced plans to convert Cedar Point into an exclusive residential area. The announcement loosed a storm of public protest all over Ohio. The governor, legislators, other public officials, the press and the letter-writing public were not about to lose the resort to homesites.

OHIO appeared determined to acquire the Point and operate it as a state park—through condemnation if all else failed, according to one announcement of the governor. But the people of Sandusky disliked the prospect of a state park at Cedar Point almost as much as the proposed residential development. For one thing, as a state operation, Cedar Point would have become essentially a beach and picnic ground, ceasing to be a real resort.

Follow the road map.
VACATIONLAND
EVERYTHING FOR BOATING
SALES—SERVICE—RENTALS
DOCK SPACE FOR 250 BOATS
STORAGE—2 LAUNCHING RAMPS
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Sandusky Register Star News
May 19, 1953

Members of Sandusky Rotary at the Thursday noon meeting this week will be given a preview of the 1953 season for Cedar Point by W. H. Evans, director of public relations.

This is the 71st anniversary for the resort and the speaker will review some of the interesting history of Cedar Point and the part it has taken in making Sandusky one of the outstanding vacationland spots in the nation. Evans will also reveal some of the plans of the resort for the current season, and improvements made in the past few years under the management of D. M. Schneider.

Congratulations and Best Wishes
to the new
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